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# Developments in the Soviet Party Congress

Excerpts of important speeches which are now available include: 1) Report on the Draft Directives of the Fifth Five Year Plan by the chairman of the State Planning Commission N. S. Saburov, 2) Discussion of this report by Politburo member N. A. Bulganin, and 3) Further discussion by Politburo member A. I. Mikoyan. In addition to the above many important officials spoke in the discussion which, along with the report, consumed all of the sessions on the 8th and most of the 9th of October. After termination of the discussion a committee to deal with amendments and additions to the draft directives of the Fifth Five Year Plan was appointed. Additional greetings to the Congress were then delivered by foreign delegates.

1. Report on the Draft Directives of the Fifth Five Year Plan by the chairman of the State Planning Commission N. S. Saburov: Saburov presented little or no information that had not already been published in the draft statutes on the five year plan goals. He called for an increase of 70% in industrial production above the 1950 level, a doubling of capital investments, expansion of metallurgical and other heavy industry in Central Asia and Siberia, and twice the amount of building construction.

Comment: From the excerpts of his report so far received it is at present impossible to draw any firm conclusions.

2. Discussion of this Report by Politburo member N. A. Bulganin: Bulganin reiterated charges of aggressive intent by the US and claimed that the launching of a third World War by the United States would result in its destruction by the mighty defensive forces of the USSR. He called for a further strengthening of the forces of the Soviet Union for the defense of the homeland. He emphasized the peaceful growth of Soviet economy which has contributed to the "cultural and material well being of the workers."

**Comment:** Bulganin's emphasis on American imperialistic intrigues as contrasted with the peaceful developments within the Soviet bloc appear to have been closely patterned after Beria's earlier speech.

**3. Further discussion by Politburo member A. I. Mikoyan:** Mikoyan began by comparing the disintegrating capitalist economy of the US with the steady peaceful increase of Soviet industry, but went on to devote the major portion of his speech to surveying the growth of the consumer goods industry and foreign trade of the USSR. He emphasized that much of current Soviet prosperity can be attributed to the annual lowering of prices during the past five years, and that the rise in savings deposits is another proof of the people's well being. Mikoyan concluded by extolling the cordially working relations with the other countries of the Soviet bloc in developing mutually profitable foreign trade.

**Comment:** This speech appears to have no particular significance in respect to future Soviet economic policies.